

A HISTORY

of the



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Freeman, South Dakota

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1879-1968

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A HISTORY OF THE HUTTERTHAL MENNONITE CHURCH

of

Freeman, South Dakota

January 7, 1968

by

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Erwin R. Gross, Coordinator

Paul E. Hofer

Joe K. Kleinsasser

John P. Kleinsasser

Jac. Mendel, Jr.



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Freeman, S. Dak. 57029



Foreword

When the Apostle John had finished writing the life story of Jesus Christ he stated these words: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

I would like to state that the background for the writing of this book is also to deepen our faith in Jesus Christ and that in our faith and our life in Jesus Christ—upon which this Church has been built—we may have life in His name. Our forefathers did not seek to establish history when they moved away from the established church. They moved ahead separating themselves from the established church, suffering persecution, moving from country to country until they were established at Freeman, South Dakota. The purpose for all of this was their faith in and their love for Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior.

As you read this book you will note that the local church has reached numerous milestones. You will get the feeling that each of the milestones were not stopping places but points of departure for new horizons.

In the reading of this book one can plainly see the plan of God as it was revealed. The past one can put together and see plainly but the future is unlimited. The Milestone of the new Educational Wing which is being dedicated this 7th day of January 1968 is a step forward to attain the great possibilities the church has in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, let us truthfully say, without any apologies, "These are written that you (and your children and children's children) may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

May the Lord bless the individuals that have worked many an hour in accumulating the material for this book. Also to all those who have been willing to share material or pictures, and those who worked diligently in getting the material organized and ready for the printer.

Rev. Gerhard M. Peters

Music

The present generation can hardly visualize a worship service without a prelude, entroit, and postlude. Anthems were unknown in our early church. Solos, duets, trios, quartets, and choirs were things still to become a part of our worship services.

Until about 1910 the church had only one song book, and that had no notes, namely: Gesangbuch - Eine Sammlung Geistlicher Lieder. Singing was similar to singing by rote. The minister would name the melody in which the song was to be sung. Then he would read a phrase or verse of the song to be sung and the congregation would then sing what the minister had read. This would continue for some time. Usually there was a man to begin the singing. If he happened to get the wrong melody or tune, another one would try his ability at singing in what he thought was the right melody or tune. Once in a while a lady would start the singing. This way of singing was kept up until the introduction of the Evangeliums Lieder in about 1910.

In 1924 the first choir was begun with Peter Vogt as director. Some of the directors since then were: J. J. Engbrecht, Paul J. Hofer, Sam J. Hofer, Jac Mendel, Mrs. Kathryn Dyck, Vivian (Hofer) Epp, Kathryn (Kleinsasser) Graber, Dorothy (Imhoff) Wyse, Mrs. Marie (Duerksen) Kleinsasser, Mrs. Shirley (Preheim) Hofer, Mrs. Rosalina (Ortiz) Hofer, and Peter A. Hofer.

With the introduction of the Tabernacle Hymnal in about 1930, the singing was changed from the German to the English language.

Until 1936, singing was without piano or organ accompaniment. In 1936 a piano was bought with voluntary contributions, and in 1955 a Moeller pipe organ was installed by the Young People's Fellowship organization.

In keeping with our conference policy the Mennonite Hymnal was chosen in 1952, to be used as the song book for our worship services.

Much time and effort is spent practicing and in the rendering of song, but oh how it adds so much to a worship service. May we ever heed the command of David in Psalms 66:2, when he says: "Sing forth the honor of His name".

Background History

The history of our people is too long to be recorded in a treatise of this nature. It should behoove us to read the long and interesting history of our people as well as the history of our low German and Swiss friends. It might be said of our forefathers that by faith or because of their faith they were sojourners, strangers, and pilgrims in Austria, Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Moravia, Switzerland, and borders of other countries. Because of what they believed they were persecuted and imprisoned until Empress Catherine of Russia, although unprincipled and savagely cruel as a woman, but shrewd and foresighted as a ruler, did much for our people by granting them special privileges in 1762, beyond those enjoyed by native Russians. Some of these privileges were: free land, free transportation, financial support until they owned their homes, tax exemption for a limited time, exemption from military service, and toleration in establishing educational institutions as they needed them. These liberties were to last for 100 years. They were given some of the best land in southern Russia. Our forefathers were good farmers and enjoyed these privileges for about 100 years in the Ukraine territory.

In 1870 these privileges were revoked and the new mandate required Russian to be the official language. All schools were to be supervised by direct imperial authority and for the Mennonites military exemptions were to be abolished. The Mennonites were given ten years to adjust themselves to the new order. Through special delegation, visiting the authorities at the Russian capital, they, by petition, asked for continuance of the revoked privileges, but came home disappointed.

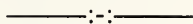
It was decided that migration was inevitable for all Mennonites. After a delegation had been sent out to investigate possibilities, several countries were considered to migrate to, but by Divine Providence, America was the country our forefathers chose. Upon the report of the delegation and other considerations the exodus from Russia to America began in 1874.

It would seem that the Lord definitely led our forefathers. Some years after their departure from Russia the country had a severe famine and the Bolshevistic revolution, while here in

America the Homestead Act had already passed and invitations were extended to new settlers. The railroad was built as far as Yankton a few years before the arrival of the Mennonites. Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States and he assured them the Civil War had just been fought and it would be a long time before the United States would have another war. The first group of our people came in 1874, and other groups came the following years.

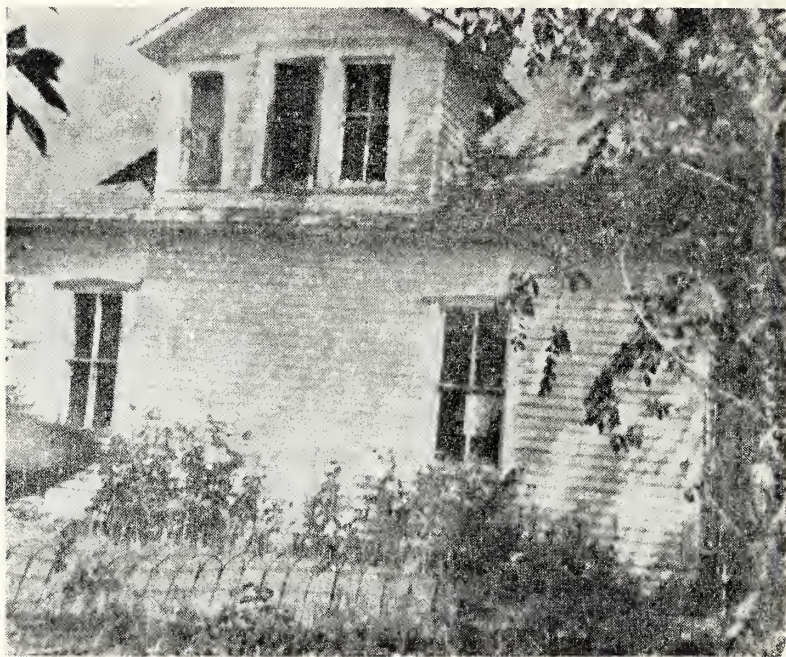
In this land they were to join other groups of Mennonites (MCC) to carry on world wide distribution of food and clothing in the Name of Christ to victims of drought and famine. They were also to join conferences to carry on mission work, both home and foreign. Two of Rev. Paul Hofer's great-grandsons, Edward Tschetter and Virgil Kleinsasser, are at present on the mission field in Africa.

We must ever remind ourselves while ingenuity and initiative are to some extent necessary for our physical welfare, in the final analysis God is the source of all our blessings. Because this is true, we must agree with the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:14, "I have an obligation to discharge and a duty to perform and a debt to pay", (Ampl. Bible) to those less fortunate than we.



The history of our congregation really had its beginning in Russia in 1877, according to page 137 of our church record. John L. Wipf and John Waldner were elected to serve as ministers at that time. You will note, however, on page 8 of this book, that these two ministers are mentioned with the beginning dates of their ministry as 1879. The reason for this discrepancy is the fact that the writer of this book tries to relate happenings of this congregation after their arrival in the United States, and the founding of the Hutterthal Mennonite Church in the Dakota Territory.

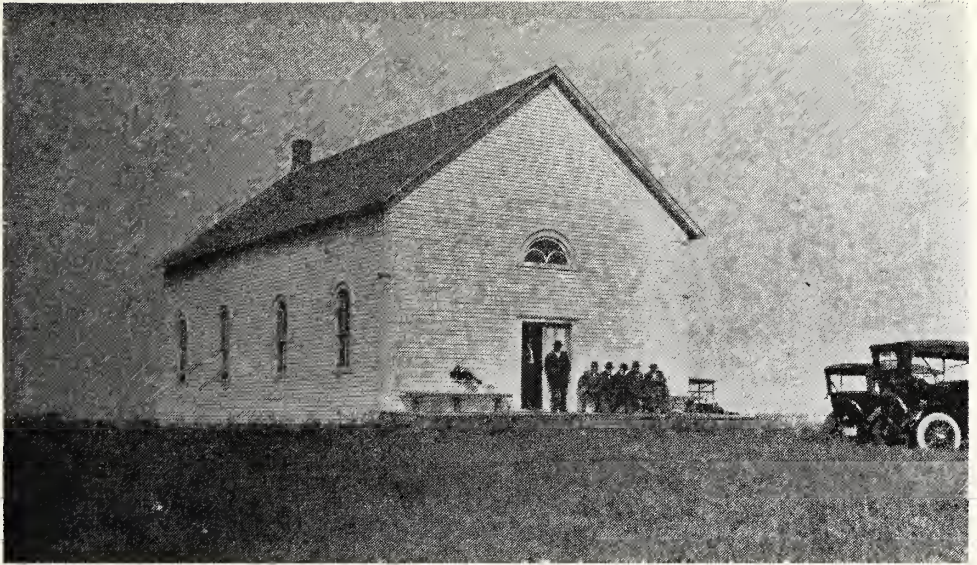
History of Our Congregation



This building was the first church of our congregation. In November of 1882, this group of settlers decided to build a church on the southwest corner of Section 15, township 99, range 56, which is approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of our present structure. The land upon which it was built belonged to one of the ministers then, namely, John Waldner. The total cost of construction was \$412.

Most of the families that migrated to the Dakota Territory came between 1874 and 1879. Most of our forefathers came in 1879. The first three years the worship services were held in the homes. Twelve families constituted the total membership of the first congregation. The name Hutterthal Mennonite Church was given to this newly formed congregation. "Hutterthal" was the name of a village in Russia.

This original building still stands today on the Roy Ensz farm near Silver Lake, 6 miles north of Freeman, S. Dak. Tobias Kehn purchased it from our congregation 1899, for \$140 after a new structure was built at the present site. It was converted into a home and used for this purpose by the Kehn family for many years. It is for this reason that you notice the dormer windows above the ceiling line. A few years ago it was no longer useful for this purpose and was then used for a garage and shop, which purpose it serves today.

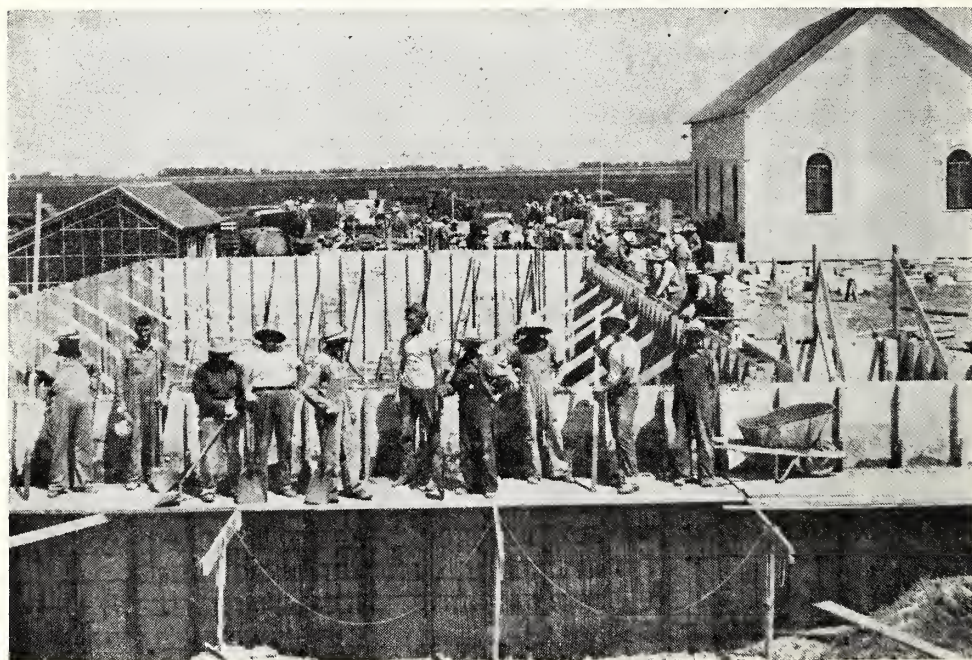
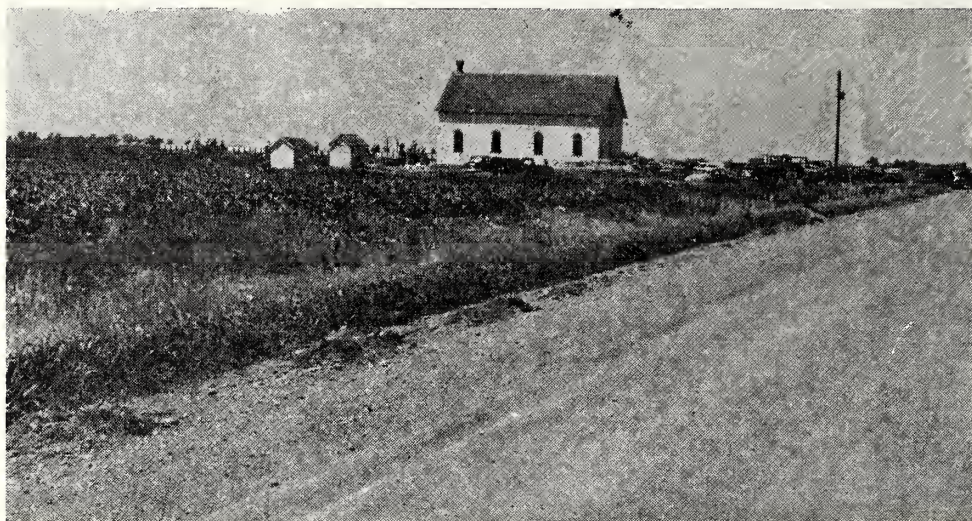


This was the second building used as a house of worship by the Hutterthal congregation. It was built in 1899 for a total construction cost of \$1,720.82. It was located approximately 50 feet east of the present structure. This place of worship served its purpose until 1952.

Ours was one of the largest Hutterish churches in the Freeman area. After all these years, in spite of the fact that many families moved to other areas in South Dakota such as: the Beadle, Spink, and Sully county areas, the building still outlived its usefulness and was replaced with a new brick structure.

After the new brick structure was completed the above mentioned building was sold at auction to Edward A. Hofer for \$1,900. He dismantled it and used the lumber to build a double corn crib with an over-head granary.

Just to give you a clear image of our second church building and the proximity of our present sanctuary to the old structure on the present site. Construction of the brick edifice had just begun as you can well see.





The present structure without the Educational Wing was built in 1952 by the Hattendorf Construction Company, for a total cost of around \$80,000, including the pews, kitchen facilities, and organ. This building with its full basement would surely be adequate, we thought, but soon learned that we neither had ample room, nor adequate facilities for our Sunday School classes. Approximately in 1960, we began planning for better educational facilities for our church school. In 1967 we made these ideas a reality, and added an educational wing (as pictured on the cover) with 16 classrooms, library, a furnace room, and a beautiful large foyer. This Wing was also built by the Hattendorf Construction Company of Tripp, S. Dakota, at an approximate cost of \$60,000 including the furnishings.

The main sanctuary was dedicated on Sunday, June 14, 1953.

Ministers That Have Served Our Congregation

John Kleinsasser	1879-1898
John Waldner	1879-1899
Paul Hofer	1879-1908
John L. Wipf	1879-1909
Joseph Hofer	1903-1906
John P. Hofer	1908-1925
P. P. Kleinsasser	1909-1914
J. W. Kleinsasser	1917-1919
P. P. Tschetter	1921-1937
Jacob B. Hofer	1926-1954
Ronald von Riesen	1955-1956
Abe M. Wiebe	1956-1963
Harold Graber	1963-1964
Gerhard Peters	1964-present

In the early years of our church the ministers were actually lay people of the congregation that were elected by the members. As you can well see there were as many as three or four ministers serving simultaneously. It was not until Rev. P. P. Tschetter moved to Kansas in 1937 that we have been having only one minister. It is also noteworthy that all ministers prior to Rev. P. P. Tschetter, served without any monetary remuneration. All except the last four were of our own Hutterish people. We should also mention that all but the first six are still living.



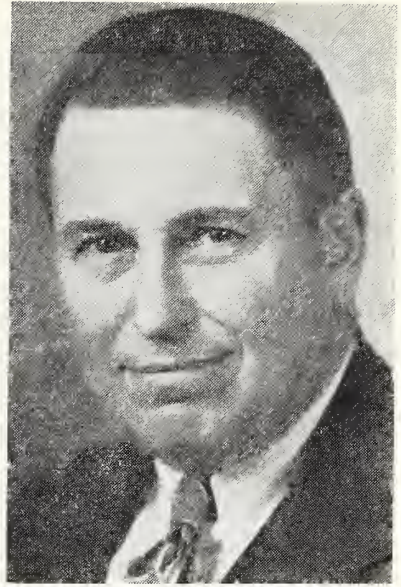
JOHN L. WIPF



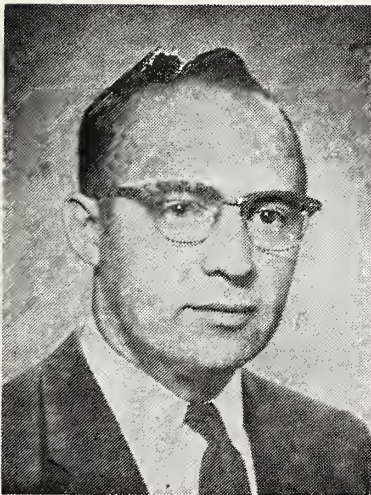
P. P. KLEINSASSER



P. P. TSCHETTER



JACOB B. HOFER



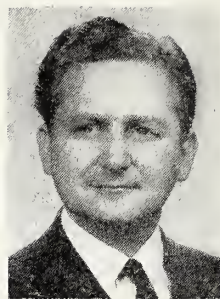
ABE M. WIEBE



HAROLD GRABER



J. W. KLEINSASSER



RONALD VON RIESEN

A LETTER FROM A FORMER PASTOR

Viewing the spiritual growth of the church we need to recognize our "fathers". They did not have the educational advantages we have. They looked to the Lord for grace and mercy. That was especially true of the spiritual leaders. The Lord implanted a hunger and thirst for the bread and water of life. And in His time He brought about a spiritual revival. As a consequence many found assurance of salvation and new strength in the battle of life.

The children were drawn actively into the Sunday School. In the regular services at least part of the service was brought to the children's level of understanding. The lambs were fed with the sheep.

This helped to draw in the young people. Some were needed as Sunday School teachers. A choir was organized. The Christian Endeavor gave further opportunity to reveal and develop talent.

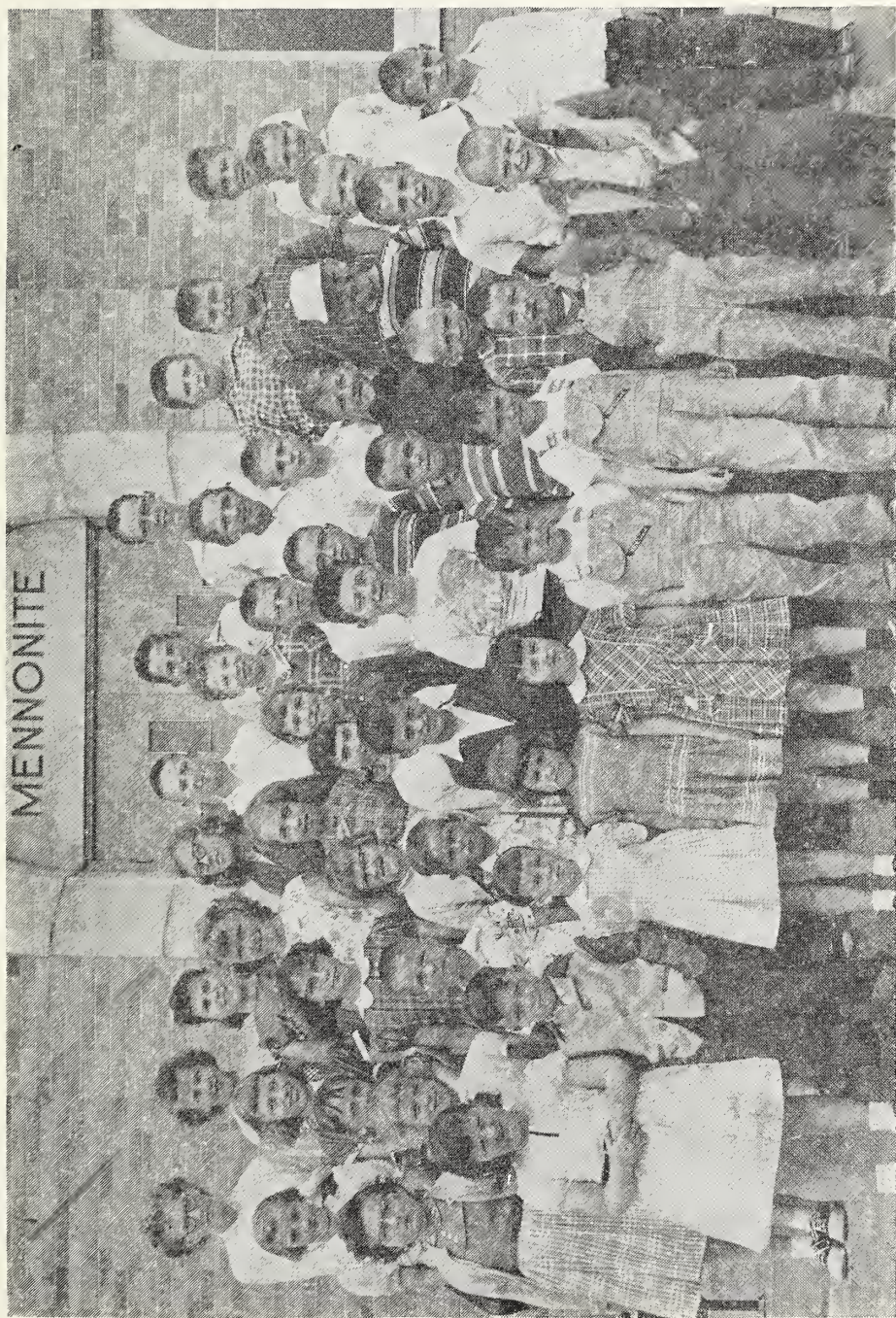
For this work cooperation with others is necessary. To meet this need a Sunday School convention was organized among churches who had no such connection.

To this was added an annual harvest-mission festival. Such a festival gives opportunity to unitedly give our heavenly Father thanks for all His benefits, and to give an opportunity to give a thank offering of our material gifts for the furthering of the Gospel to such who have never heard the good news of salvation, or are in need of help.

As the work went on a call for active Christian service came to some who responded, and by the grace of God still continues.

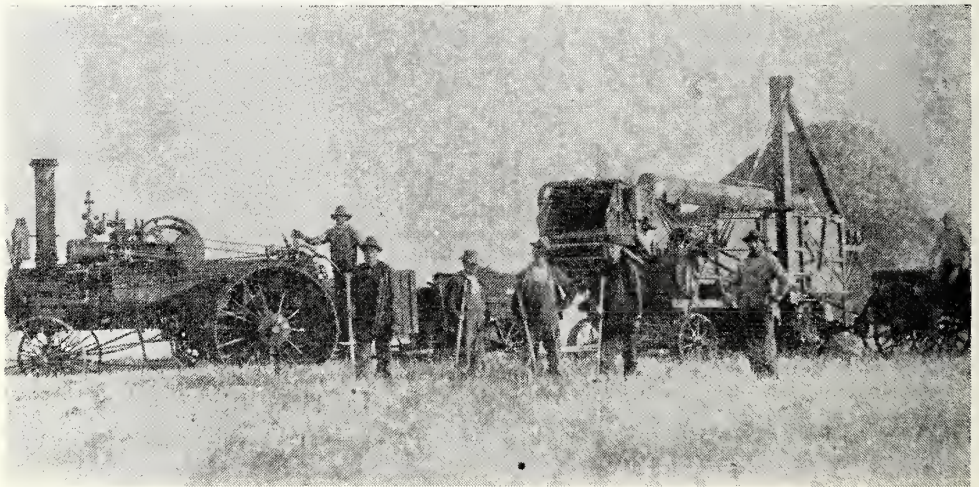
May the good Lord find willing hearts who will say with Isaiah, the prophet, "Here am I, send me". Or with Saul of Tarsus "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

Rev. P. P. Tschetter



In keeping with the theme "history", this is rather recent history, but I believe it tells a story. This is the primary and junior Sunday School department during the Daily Vacation Bible School session in June of 1957. Today a dozen or more are married and a few have children of their own.

These pictures were inserted to give you some idea of conditions that existed during the early years in the United States. Compare these harvesting machines with those of our present day. Also compare the farm homes with the farm homes of today.

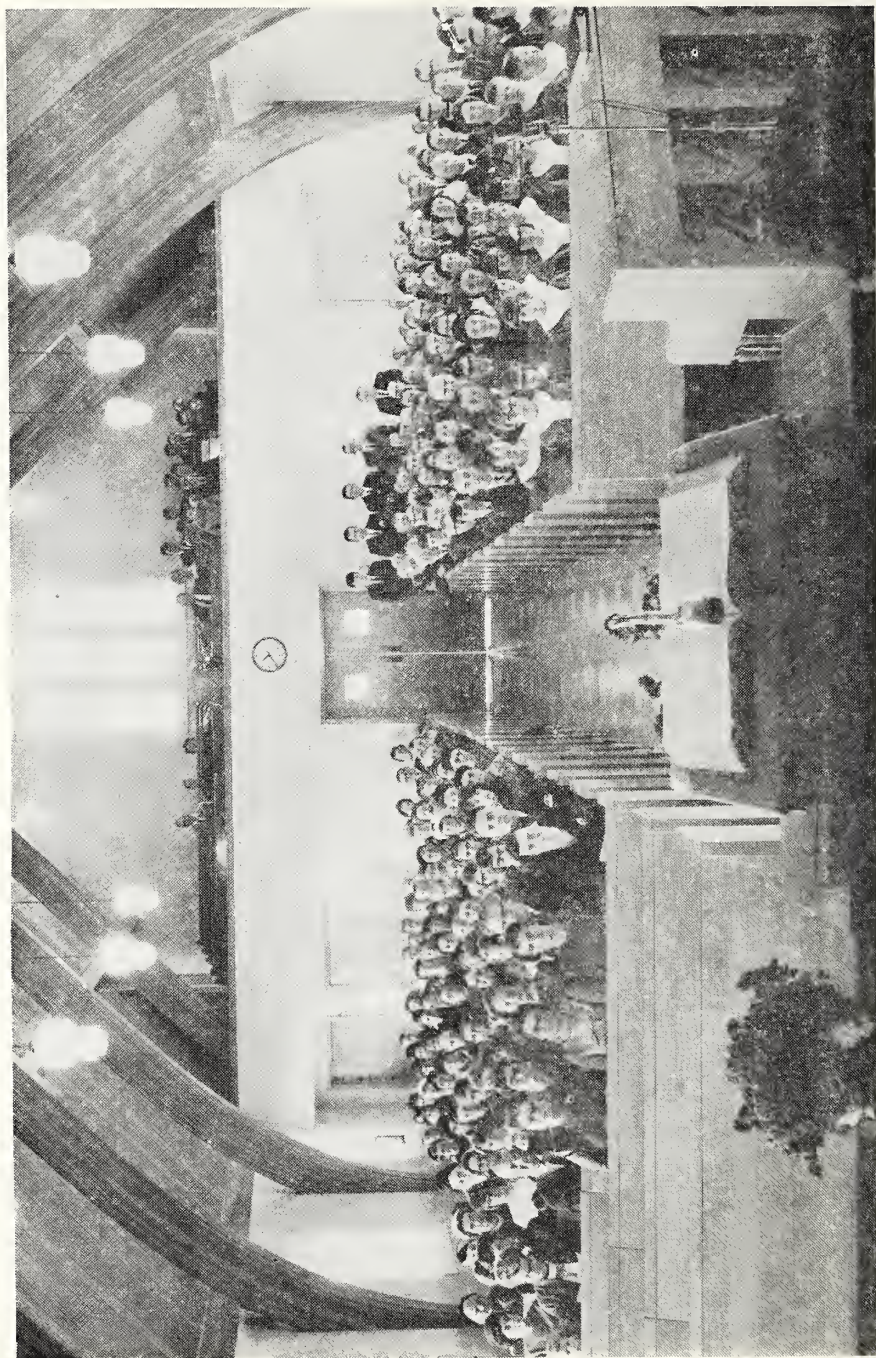




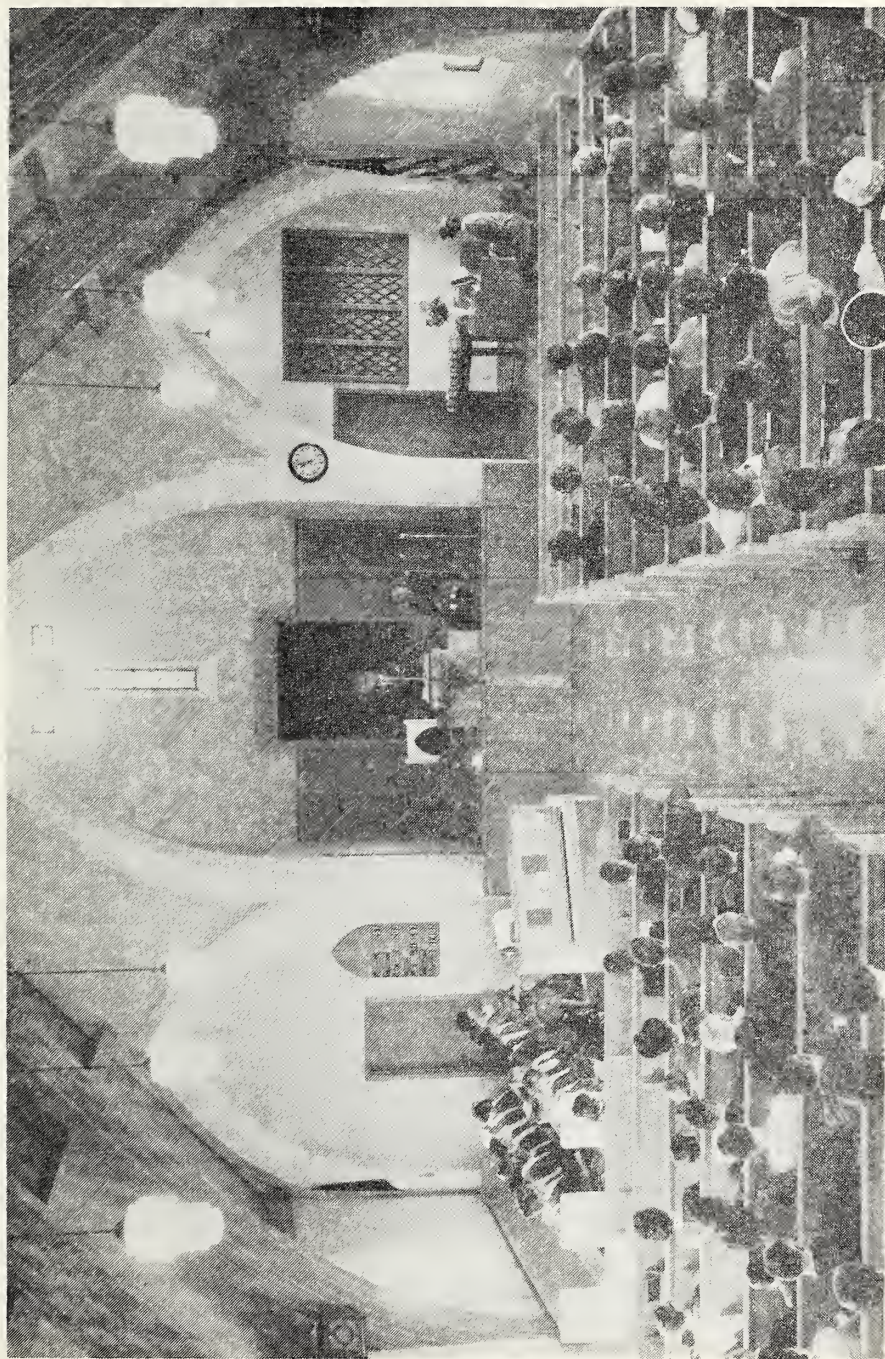
Home of John L. Hofer, grandfather of Jacob L. Hofer Jr. It was located about 1 mile north of Freeman and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west



Original home of Jacob L. Hofer, Sr.



MAIN SANCTUARY — VIEW FROM FRONT



MAIN SANCTUARY — VIEW FROM BACK

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH

The Sunday School

From Switzerland to Austria to Rumania to Hungary to Czechoslovakia to Germany to Russia to America, and finally to the Freeman, South Dakota area was a long trek filled with challenges and opportunities with their accompanying joys and sorrows, poverty and prosperity, achievements and disappointments that only a rugged people could endure.

It was on July 21, 1879 that the ship "Mosel", on which many of our forefathers came from Russia to America, docked in the harbor in New York. Very few of the passengers on that ship or any ship that brought our people across the ocean from 1874 to 1879 are alive today. At that time, Sunday School was not in the minds of a people that lived on salt pork and zwieback, and to whom "hafer-schleim" (oatmeal) was a delicacy. Still, somehow, uppermost in their minds were the three important things that made North America great: home, church, and school.

Provision was made for the time and place for worship and instruction in Bible. Services were conducted on the adult level, and children were expected to sit quietly through the long church services. Often, the younger children stayed at home. The writer of this article well remembers the consequences of docking lambs with a rusty hatchet one Sunday forenoon when he should have been in church.

Somewhere in the migration, our people came into contact with the Kindergarten as it was developed in Germany. They used it consistently, and it is surprising that Sunday Schools were not established sooner to take the place of the Kindergarten.

In the Hutterthal Church, Sunday School was begun in about 1908 or 1910. The two people most instrumental in getting the work started were Jacob P. Mendel, and Rev. J. W. Kleinsasser. J. W. Kleinsasser was the first Sunday School Superintendent. He served in this capacity for 7 years. At first there were only four classes.

Classes were taught in German, though some of the early teachers used the Tyrolean or Hutterish dialect in their classes. It is not certain just when the children's classes began to be taught

in English. The first adult class to be taught in English was in 1936. Finally, only two classes were conducted in the German language. The last class to discontinue the use of the German was the Senior Ladies' class some five or six years ago. The transition was gradual. We still order a few German Quarterlies for this class.

At the beginning of the Sunday School the "Biblische Geschichte" were used. Later the Sunday School Quarterlies were adopted. In 1935 it was decided to get the quarterlies that have both the German and English scripture texts.

The Sunday School was important to our people, nevertheless, it took quite some time to establish Sunday School for the children. The following statement from the congregation's annual meeting in 1920 may be of interest: "The members of the church should bring their eight year old children to Sunday School".

Because our congregation still has the feeling that this is an important area of the religious life of a people we are dedicating the Educational Wing today. Today, as an evidence of growth and development both physically and spiritually, we see this fine building with its 16 classrooms, library, and other facilities. From the original 4 classes we have now grown to approximately 19 classes.

Will this building also become inadequate? Growth for the good is always welcome. So, if we need to build another addition in sixteen or twenty-five years, the Lord will have been good to us and His work will have prospered.

We would like to mention some of the people who have served in the early years as teachers or superintendents, and have since gone to their reward. They are: Mike J. Hofer, Jacob L. Hofer Sr., David R. Wipf, Paul Mendel, John M. S. Hofer, John S. Waldner, Jacob P. Mendel, Jacob P. Hofer, Jacob M. Waldner, D. P. Glanzer, Peter P. Miller, Andrew J. C. Gross, George J. C. Gross, John P. Hofer, Mrs. P. P. Tschetter, Kathryn L. (Hofer) Mendel. No doubt, there are others whom we have failed to mention.

We cannot fail to mention our Primary and Junior Sunday School departments. Each year these departments have done their part to help relieve the suffering in this world.

This year they have brought their money to help buy food for India, medicine for MCC, aid for Taiwan, Christmas bundles and school supplies. Our group also sponsored a child in India so it could go to school for one year.

Other years they have taken part in such projects as bringing caps, socks, gloves, soap, wash cloths, hankies, safety pins, adhesive tape, bandages, school supplies, and money for books for the Graber children. They have also been bringing used Christmas cards and used Sunday School material.

There may have been others, but there is one more project we must mention. For a number of years our Sunday School gave each boy and girl a Building Fund Bank. During the year they tried to see how much they could save. Every year at our Harvest-Mission Festival the boys and girls brought their banks. The money was then invested in Home Federal Savings and Loan Association savings, hoping that some day they could help furnish the Sunday School rooms in the new Educational Wing that we were dreaming about. Now our dreams have come true and our new wing is a reality. The boys and girls have had an important part in furnishing this new educational facility.



PRIMARY AND JUNIOR S. S. PROJECTS

Mrs. Joseph K. Hofer Jr., and Mrs. Melvin L. Hofer with items that were given for the less fortunate children in foreign lands by the children of our primary and junior departments.



PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Back row: Mrs. John M. Hofer, Mrs. Melvin L. Hofer, Mrs. Kenneth Hofer, Mrs. Amos J. Kleinsasser, Supt., Mrs. Solomon Hofer, Mrs. Marlyn Friesen, Miss Priscilla Ann Hofer, Mrs. Clarence Glanzer.

Front row: Mrs. LeRoy D. Hofer, Mrs. Melvin Glanzer, Mrs. Norman Hofer, Mrs. Ray Glanzer, Mrs. Erwin R. Gross, Mrs. Aaron Glanzer, Mrs. Delmer Hofer.



JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Back row: Mrs. Joseph K. Hofer, Jr., Supt., Mrs. Vernon P. Hofer, Mrs. John D. Gross, Mrs. Harold Hofer, Gordon Hofer, Peter A. Hofer, Vernon P. Hofer.

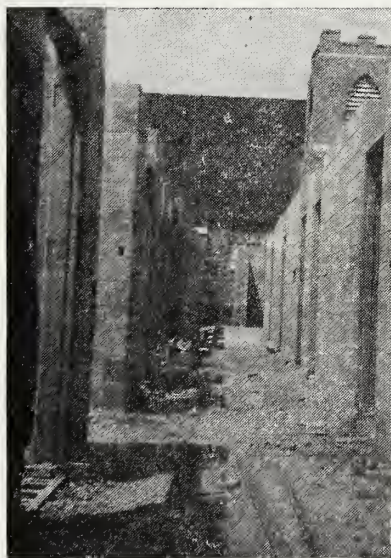
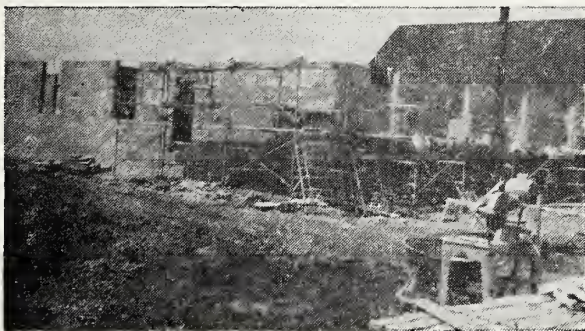
Front row: Mrs. Don Hamm, Mrs. John M. Stahl, Mrs. Samuel E. Hofer, Mrs. William Stahl, Mrs. Moses Glanzer.

New Educational Wing



Ground-breaking services took place on May 21, 1967. The main speaker was Frank G. Ward, Secretary of Christian Education for the Board of Education-Publication of the General Conference Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas. Various members of the Sunday School, and officers of various organizations of the church took part in the service.

Progress in Construction

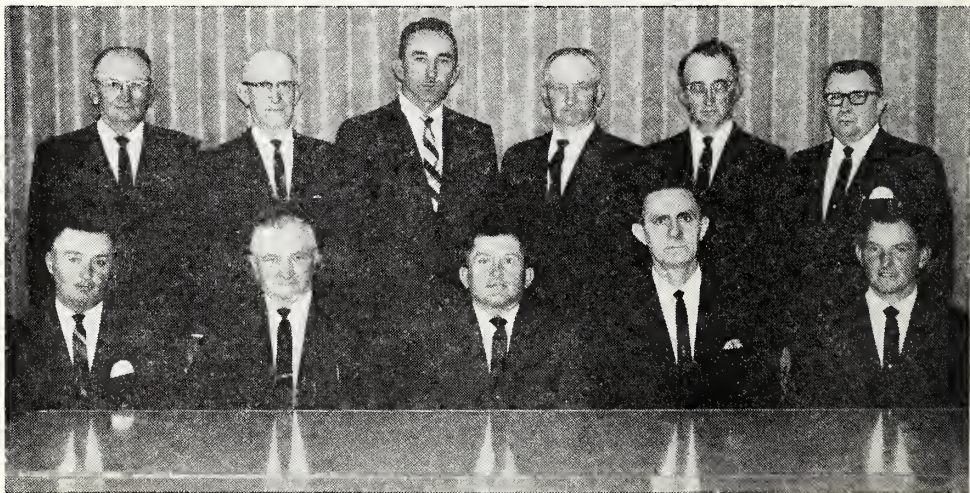




ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Back row: LeRoy D. Hofer, Calvin Hofer, Amos J. Kleinsasser, George M. Hofer, Norman Hofer, John M. Hofer, Paul L. Hofer.

Front rows: Delmer Hofer, Mrs. Joe K. Kleinsasser, Harold Hofer, Joe K. Kleinsasser, John P. Kleinsasser, Mrs. Joe Math Hofer, Mrs. John P. Kleinsasser, Mrs. Jacob Hofer, Kenneth Hess, Paul E. Hofer, Aaron Glanzer, Mrs. Raymond M. Hofer, Mrs. Paul L. Hofer, Erwin R. Gross, Supt.



THE CHURCH BOARD

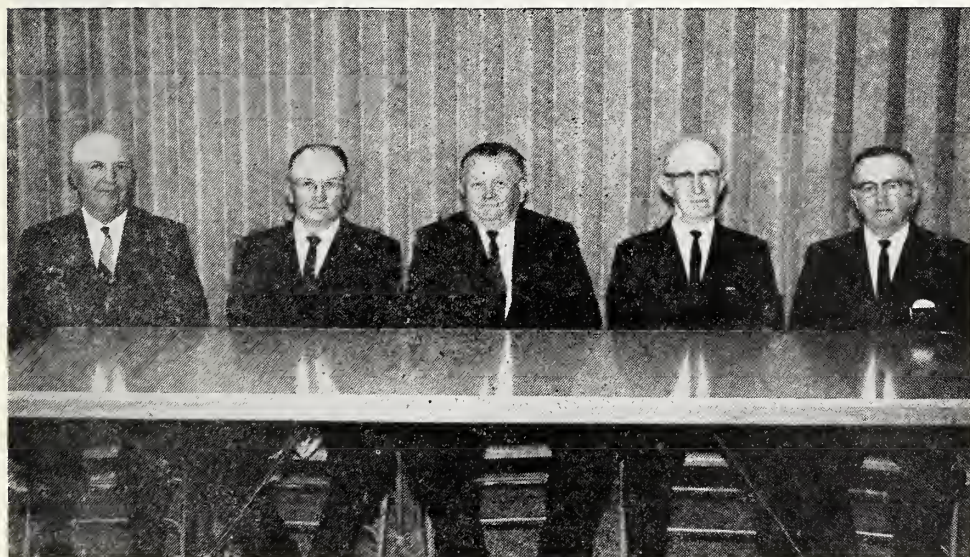
Back row: Joe P. Glanzer, deacon; David D. Glanzer, deacon; George M. Hofer, trustee; Paul L. Hofer, deacon; Amos Hofer, treasurer; Erwin R. Gross, Supt.

Front row: Vernon P. Hofer, trustee; Jacob L. Hofer Jr., trustee; Aaron Glanzer, chairman; Rev. G. M. Peters, pastor; Harold Hofer, Youth Fellowship; not pictured, Walter Hofer, secretary.



THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Moses Glanzer, chairman; Norman Hofer, LeRoy D. Hofer, Amos Kleinsasser, and Melvin L. Hofer.



THE LABOR COMMITTEE

Paul Matt Hofer, Joe P. Glanzer, Joe K. Kleinsasser, chairman; David D. Glanzer, Joe E. Hofer.



THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Gordon Hofer, Aaron Glanzer, chairman; Joe Math Hofer, Joe E. Hofer. Not pictured, Walter Hofer.



THE FURNITURE COMMITTEE

Back row: Jonathan Mendel, Vernon P. Hofer, Joseph K. Hofer Jr., Gordon Hofer, chairman.

Front row: Mrs. Jonathan Mendel, Mrs. Vernon P. Hofer, Mrs. Joseph K. Hofer Jr., Mrs. Gordon Hofer.



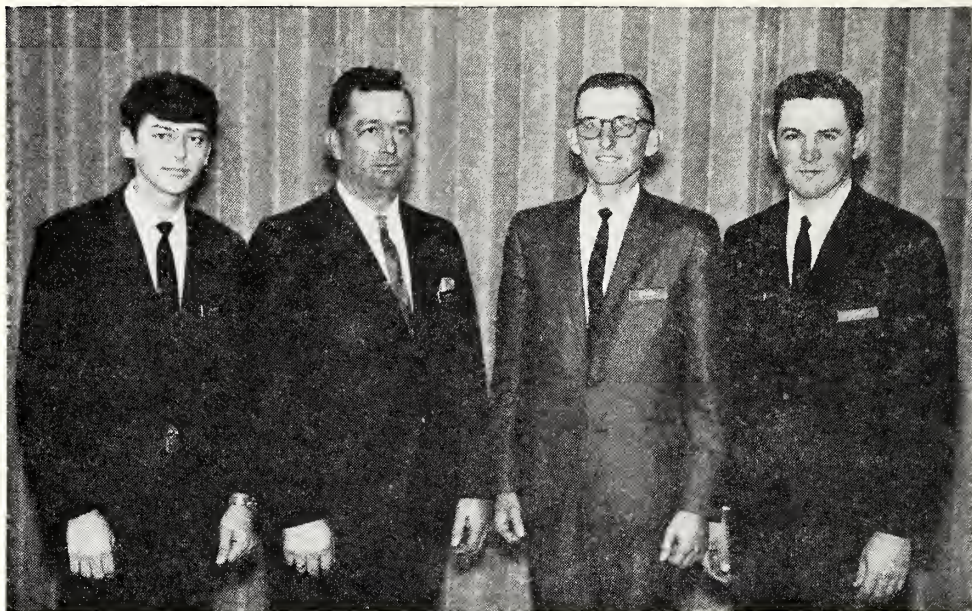
DECORATING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Aaron Glanzer, Mrs. Joe Math Hofer, chairman, Mrs. George M. Hofer, Mrs. Walter Hofer, Mrs. Peter A. Hofer, and Mrs. Tillie Waldner.



THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Harold Hofer, Mrs. John M. Stahl, and Paul E. Hofer.



THE USHERS

**Donald Hofer, Silas Kleinsasser, Calvin Hofer, and Marlyn Friesen.
Not pictured: Larry Hofer and Don E. Gross.**



MR. AND MRS. JOE K. KLEINSASSER

Joe was the custodian during the building program year.

Christian Endeavor

In 1926, Rev. P. P. Tschetter, pastor of the Hutterthal Mennonite Church at the time, was instrumental in getting the Christian Endeavor organized. The purpose for organizing this arm of the church was to develop the talents possessed by our young people and also to be used as a means of witnessing. It was decided to have an executive committee responsible to plan the programs which should be rendered every other month or a total of six programs per year. This practice is still being observed today. It seems as though much of the enthusiasm that once existed has now vanished. Very often we will have programs which include outside talent to create greater interest in this venture.

We must remember, however, that during the days of its birth, there were not very many opportunities for young people to appear on programs and have a great share in public witnessing. Maybe this is the reason why it was originally known as "Jugend Verein," which in the English would mean *Youth Society*.

History of the Women's Mission Fellowship

The Women's Mission Fellowship had its beginning back in 1943. This came about when our pastor's wife, Mrs. Jacob B. Hofer, felt the need and had a concern that we start a mission society. This society was organized with Mrs. Joe Math Hofer, president; Mrs. Jacob B. Hofer, secretary; and Mrs. Peter J. S. Hofer, treasurer. These three officers took care of all the needs and projects that arose. To find a name for this organization was the first step we had to take. Here again our pastor's wife was helpful and suggested the name, "The Faithful Women's Missionary Society", and this name was accepted.

The first public program was rendered Oct. 10, 1943. The theme was "Missions". From then on a program was rendered every other month on a Sunday evening. The first project was a new and used clothing drive for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)), and the response was wonderful. In 1945 as the

membership became larger, committees were needed, later more were added.

In September, 1947, this organization decided to have special gatherings of all the ladies and young girls besides our public programs. So the first Sunday afternoon of every other month was designated for that purpose. This gave an opportunity to get acquainted more fully and discuss the different projects that we as a society supported. It also gave us more time to pray for our missionaries and their work. This proved very successful and many young girls with the married sisters worked together to carry on the Lord's work.

Since this organization accepted assignments of our conference, we needed to add a project committee to take care of the sewing needs, fulfill the projects that arose, and further a missionary and good-will spirit. We also added a welfare committee, who arranged to visit the shut-in and sick folks, remember the bereaved, and our boys in service. Since the building of our church, we added a table committee, flower committee and cleaning committee.

When an organization grows, with it arise many problems. In 1960 a constitution was adopted to guide and assist us in our affairs, which has proven to be very helpful. We also agreed to shorten the name to "Women's Mission Fellowship". We again reassured the purpose of this organization to be fourfold:

1. To cultivate a missionary spirit in the church
2. To spread cheer among the sick and bereaved
3. To carry on relief and good will projects
4. To help further the mission program of our General and Northern District conferences

Today as we look back some 24 years, when this organization had its humble beginning, we couldn't begin to count the many Christmas bundles that were sent out. The many leprosy patients that were enlightened when they received a bundle, the many mothers who received a baby layette for their new born babies, the Indians who received the message of Christ while quilting the quilt blocks that we cut for them, and the wounds that were tied with the bandages that we rolled, the men, women and children that could sleep warmly with the comforters we tied and the blankets we sent, the clothes they received to wear, the soap that was sent to keep clean, etc. We could go on and on with projects that we took part in.

We can truly say, Hitherto, the Lord has helped us.

Young People's Fellowship

The Young People's Fellowship was organized on September 19, 1951.

The following officers were elected:

President	Deloris Hofer
Vice President	Kathryn Kleinsasser
Secretary	Vivian Hofer
Treasurer	Robert Hofer
Corresponding Secretary	Paul M. Hofer

In the beginning the group met after choir practice on alternating Wednesdays. We had Bible study and discussions on topics such as tithing, movies, and others.

For several years our group was responsible for a speaker who presented a series of meetings. These were held for the entire congregation and were usually held one night a week for as many weeks as were required. In 1951, Dr. J. D. Unruh gave a series of lectures on Mennonite Doctrines. Rev. Russell Mast was our speaker in 1952. He spoke on Faith and Life. In 1954, Jacob M. Hofer (west) held a series on the History of the Hutterites.

The purchase and installation of our church organ was a project of our young people. We worked hard and some of the funds were secured by having a booth at the state corn picking contest held at the Joe K. Hofer, Sr. farm. This proved to be very successful and a large contribution was made to our organ fund. Another time the group gave a joint program at the Bethany Church and an offering was received toward the organ fund. Another project which netted much cash toward the organ fund was a "corn bee." Many young people and older people volunteered to pick up dropped off ears of corn. The corn was then shelled and sold.

The Young Peoples' Fellowship has at other times shown its concern for the church. When the parsonage was built in Freeman in 1956, the young people made themselves responsible to furnish the pastor's study with desk, chairs, book shelves, etc.

Only about a year ago the young people furnished a new electric typewriter for the pastor's study.



The following is a list of individuals who have at one time taught in our Sunday School, but are not presently teaching.

Peter J. S. Hofer	Mrs. Walter J. Hofer
David D. Glanzer	Elaine Hofer
Jacob M. Hofer	Mrs. Amos Hofer
Rev. Jacob B. Hofer	Mrs. Gordon Hofer
Sarah B. Hofer	Mrs. Derrold Hofer
David J. R. Hofer	Mrs. Marvin Hofer
Johnny J. Hofer	June Hofer
Mrs. Johnny J. Hofer	Mrs. Vernon J. Hofer (recently elected)
Joe J. Hofer	Mrs. Paul E. Hofer
John J. B. Hofer	Mrs. Samuel E. Hofer
Samuel H. Hofer	Calvin Hofer
Mrs. Sam A. Hofer	Arlyss (Hofer) Brockmueller
Mrs. David J. R. Hofer	Marvin P. Hofer
Sam J. Hofer	Mrs. Theo. J. Hofer
Mrs. Justina (Kleinsasser) Guericke	Robert Hofer
Kathryn Kleinsasser) Graber	Mrs. Clifford A. Hofer
Maggie Pollman	Clifford A. Hofer
Mrs. Edwin Pollman	Dr. Ernest J. Hofer
Marlyn Friesen	Gladys (Hofer) Kleinsasser
Mrs. Harold Graber	Mrs. John P. Hofer
Elmer L. Gross	Mrs. Ed A. Hofer
Ruby (Kleinsasser) Hughes	Vivian (Hofer) Epp
Fern (Kleinsasser) Graber	Paul M. Hofer
Mrs. Raymond M. Hofer	Melvin Glanzer
Moses Glanzer	Clara Martha (Glanzer) Graber
Sharon (Glanzer) Hiebner	Joe P. Glanzer
Alice (Glanzer) Buller	Paul Glanzer
Selma Glanzer	Mary (Glanzer) Hofman
Alma (Glanzer) Hofer	Mrs. Jonathan Mendel
Jac. Mendel	Edwin J. Maendl
Rachel (Mendel) Regier	Mrs. Eli J. Stahl
William Stahl	Sharon (Waldner) Waltner
Mary Bixler	Mrs. Abe M. Wiebe
Rev. Abe M. Wiebe	Mrs. Paul J. Decker
Paul J. Decker	
Mrs. Roland Hofer	

We are sure that some names have been omitted because most of these names were taken from the year books of the past years, and many times there were re-elections after the books were printed and therefore, the newly elected persons would not be mentioned.

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AUTHOR

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Hutterthal Mennonite Church

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